

the earth and tail did not meet this morning.

"If this meeting is delayed until tonight, then there can be little doubt that the earth will not pass through the tail at all, but will pass to the south side of it. The reason for this is simple. The tail of the comet is a plane of the comet's orbit, the comet's orbital plane makes an angle of eighteen degrees with the earth's orbital plane, the retardation of the tail therefore draws it away from the plane in which the earth is moving and the earth will pass south of it. The observed position of the tail this morning was appreciably further north than that of yesterday morning.

PRINCETON, N. J., May 19.—That astronomers all over the world were mistaken in regard to the action of the tail of Halley's comet became apparent to Prof. Henry Norris Russell of the department of astronomy at Princeton University at 3 A. M. today. At that hour he noticed in the eastern sky the band of light which had indicated the tail of the comet for some time past, only it now appeared to be curved more than was expected. From this Prof. Russell decided that the earth had not yet passed through the tail of the comet as was anticipated, and this judgment he confirmed by closer observation. The nucleus of the comet passed between the earth and the sun on schedule time last evening, but the curvature in the tail kept it from striking the earth at the expected time.

Prof. Russell explained that since the velocity of the tail is the same as that of the comet it follows that the end of the tail, describing a greater arc, will arrive later than the head unless the comet is moving in a straight line.

Zacharias Daniel, Princeton's noted comet hunter, also had noticed the curved streak in the sky. The observations of his colleagues were corroborated today by Prof. R. S. Dugan, another member of the astronomical faculty here, who had also observed last night's phenomena from his home.

Prof. Russell's statement, given out this forenoon, is as follows:

"At 3 o'clock this morning the sky was brilliantly clear without trace of moonlight or dawn. The comet's tail was conspicuous in the east as a band of light eight degrees wide and quite straight, about as bright as the fainter branch of the Milky Way, between Cygnus and Aquila. Its central line passed about midway between the stars Alpha and Gamma Pegasi and its end was lost in the Milky Way in Aquila.

"No trace of it could be detected beyond the Milky Way, and no illumination could be seen in the western sky in spite of careful search under very favorable conditions. The zodiacal light was visible in the southeast, separated from the comet's tail by a dark interval about ten degrees in breadth.

"The tail was apparently between two and three times as wide as on the morning of Tuesday, May 17. If its real width has not changed it must still have been fully one-third as far from us on the morning of the 19th as it was two days before, which would make the time of the earth's passage through it come on the morning of the 20th. If this is the case the central line of the tail where the earth's orbit cuts it is about 4,000,000 miles behind the prolongation of the line joining the sun and the comet, and the line from the comet to this point, which may be taken roughly as the line of the tail, makes an angle of about twenty degrees with the line just mentioned. The tail if viewed from a point outside its plane would appear strongly curved, as was the case with this comet when it could be so observed in 1835."

OBSERVED AT MANILA.

No Solid Matter Seen in the Comet as It Crossed the Sun.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. MANILA, May 19.—Exhaustive observations from 3:30 o'clock to 11:30 o'clock this morning at the Jesuit observatory in Manila, Baguio and Antipolo did not reveal any solid matter in the nucleus of Halley's comet. The weather conditions were most favorable for the observations, although there was a thin layer of clouds.

The intense sunlight fortunately was shaded by three natural sun spots which would have facilitated the detection of any solid matter. The greatest length recorded was 11 1/2 degrees.

Father Agius, the astronomer, believes that the observations eliminate the fear of possible disasters growing out of a collision between the comet and the earth.

During a magnetic storm last night the lights were extinguished and the electric cars stopped running for a short time. The natives became terrorized, believing that the trouble was due to the comet.

ADEN, Arabia, May 19.—Halley's comet was seen here at 1:30 o'clock this morning. It resembled a gigantic searchlight in the heavens. The head was not visible.

LONDON, May 19.—The astronomers at the Greenwich Observatory are unable to say as yet that any successful observations were made of the comet. Andrew Claude Croomin, the assistant observer at the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, says nothing unusual has occurred and he did not expect anything of that nature to happen. There had been no special magnetic disturbance.

The astronomers agree that the thunderstorm of last night had nothing to do with the comet. The Royal Astronomical Society has received a despatch from Berlin stating that clouds interfered with the observations there.

ROME, May 19.—The comet was invisible through Italy. The inhabitants of most of the cities and all the villages of the open. The peasants in the country districts, who feared that the end of the world was at hand, flocked to the churches and prayed.

Slight magnetic perturbations were registered today by the seismographs at Florence and Leghorn. They are attributed to the effects of Halley's comet. Red streaks were observed at Palermo in the eastern sky at 4 A. M. A slight short earthquake was felt at Milan.

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, May 19.—According to observations made here the earth did not traverse the comet's tail before dawn. The tail was well to the northward of the ecliptic. It is thought at the observatory that it is probable that the earth passed considerably to the south of it.

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, May 19.—The astronomers at the observatory here reported early today that there were no indications here last night that the earth was traversing the tail of the comet.

SAW NOTHING AT BOSTON. Observers Have a Fruitless Night's Vigil Except for a Good Moon. BOSTON, May 19.—At the Harvard observatory the astronomers sat up until after midnight with their instruments

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trained on parts of the heavens where something might have happened. Nothing appeared and they became discouraged and retired.

At the top of Blue Hill a watch was kept all night. The sky was more or less clear at intervals but there was nothing out of the ordinary to see.

Amateur observers selected points of vantage during the first part of the night and watched the comet. They saw a fine moon and some excellent cloud effects and then went away convinced that the earth was reasonably safe from Halley's comet for another seventy-five years.

Prof. Wendell of Harvard said that the discussion as to the time at which the comet will pass through the tail of the comet was based on the conjecture that the glowing appendage has always been regarded as lagging somewhat behind the fiery head.

TO GAZE AT THE COMET.

Four Big Telescopes in Place at the Capitol for the Use of Congressmen.

WASHINGTON, May 19.—The Capitol looks to-day as if it were fortified, for over the marble battlements of the west Senate and House porticoes peer the muzzles of four five-inch telescopes. They look for all the world from a little distance like the torpedo repelling semi-automatics now in use in the navy and are fitted with almost as many wheels and cogs and segments and other things for aiming purposes.

To-night and to-morrow night, in fact every night until the comet fades so far into space as to be non-spectacular, even through a telescope, these big instruments, borrowed from the Naval Observatory by Elliott Woods, superintendent of the Capitol, who is something of an astronomer himself, will be at the disposal of Senators and Representatives and members of their families. Big crowds are expected to attend the Congressional comet parties beginning with to-morrow night. For Mr. Woods says there will be nothing to see until then. The general public will be barred.

The Naval Observatory folks who loaned the telescopes to the Senate and House porticoes on the west are the best placed in all this section from which to view the comet, much better in fact than the Naval Observatory, where the trees are likely to obscure the view of the horizon hugging comet from the tower. They say too that these five inch telescopes are the idea instruments with which to study the comet, better in fact than the great lens in the observatory itself.

It was a surprise to some people, but not to Mr. Woods's friends to learn that for years he has been studying astronomy and has a great big telescope of his own in the Capitol laboratory on B street. Astronomy is the most fascinating study in the world, he said to-day. "I wish I had more time to devote to the heavens."

No satisfactory observations of aurora lights from the comet could be made here last night because of the brightness of the moon. The comet itself was not visible, but Prof. Asaph Hall U. S. N. of the United States Naval Observatory had expected to observe the lights from the comet had the moon not interfered. A photograph of the sun's disk taken at the observatory yesterday, however, showed three spots on its face. Prof. Hall is wondering whether or not they were due to the comet.

"The tail of the comet," said Prof. Hall, "was seen just a little before 2 o'clock this morning, about the time the moon was getting low in the sky by Prof. Morgan. A little later several other persons connected with the observatory, who were watching with the idea of trying to see any possible meteoric flashes, also saw the tail, which extended from below the horizon almost up to the Milky Way, or nearly so, degrees. The probable explanation of this appearance of the comet is that the least dense part of the tail, the main part was curved away so that the earth passed through it some hours later, the tail itself not being known."

What Halley's comet has done to the sun at the last of the tail, the visible disk seen by the daily solar photograph taken by George H. Peters at the Naval Observatory here. This photograph shows that a large group of solar spots has formed on the sun's visible disk since the comet passed. They are in the south latitude and in a position corresponding to a rotational displacement of two days from the sun's eastern limb. These, together with the large groups observed at the observatory during the last week, which are also in the southern hemisphere, form an unusual condition for this period in the sun's spot cycle.

BALLOONS REVEALED NOTHING.

Foreign Astronomers Think We Didn't Pass Through Comet's Tail.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. BERLIN, May 19.—Prof. Guhrich, director of the Royal Observatory, and other German astronomers agree that the earth probably has not yet come in contact with the tail of Halley's comet. Some say emphatically that it has not. The Austrian Academy of Sciences has communicated this opinion. The balloon investigations were without result.

VAISSAR GIRLS SEE THE COMET.

It Was Passing Through the Constellation of Pegasus Toward the Milky Way.

PORTSMOUTH, May 19.—From 2:30 to 3:15 this morning the students at Vassar College saw what Prof. Caroline F. Furness believes was Halley's comet. A shift of light which was first seen in the east made its way through the constellation of Pegasus toward the Milky Way and faded from view at 3:15 near the star Theta Aurigae. The phenomenon was visible to the naked eye and was seen by all the students who could crowd into the east windows of the building. At the observatory through the telescope, but were futile. At Pegasus the path of light was about five degrees in width while at Aurigae it was only between two and three degrees.

The brightness of the moon, Prof. Furness said, delayed observation and prevented what might have been a very interesting scientific spectacle. At first, because of the presence of clouds, only a little of the phenomenon could be seen at a time. Later, and just a few minutes before dawn, the best views were obtainable. The Vassar observatory is not equipped with photographic instruments.

MEET TAILS IN ILLINOIS. ST. LOUIS, May 19.—A meteor fell at 8:15 to-night at Reeb Station, near Belleville, Ill. It split into two pieces when near the earth. Albert Westwood and the crew of an interurban train saw it fall.

COMET IS A PUZZLE STILL

Nobody is Sure That We've Passed Through Its Tail.

Surprises Were Predicted by a French Astronomer Who Thought Comet Was Not Keeping to Schedule—No Sign of It in Our Western Sky Last Night.

A Paris despatch the other day said that M. Marchand, a French astronomer, had noted that Halley's comet was not keeping to schedule and predicted that it would furnish some surprises. It certainly has surprised astronomers over here already. They had it all figured out that we were passing through the tail night before last. There couldn't have been any numerical error in their reckoning, they say, because they have a system of checks that precludes mistakes. So we all got ourselves braced up to the point of standing the mighty frisking without a murmur and at the appointed time every one looked at every one else and thought he would just as soon do that all day. And then they flash it on us that maybe we haven't passed through the tail and maybe we won't, or maybe we went through it in daylight yesterday or maybe last night.

What knocked the figuring into a cocked hat was the appearance of that tail just before dawn yesterday over in the eastern sky when they all thought it was to be seen next in the western sky. And when they realized that the logarithm tables had been turned on while and then they began increased curves and things like that. Just at sunset last evening Prof. Harold Jacoby told an Riverside Drive at the foot of Seventy-fourth street and watched for symptoms. Jupiter came out according to schedule a few degrees on the right of the moon instead of on the left, as it was the night before, and there were a few plumes of smoke rising into the western horizon from the Jersey shore, and the after dinner comet hunters were there with binoculars and opera glasses and monoculars, but the sky was very ordinary. Bus tops going both ways were swarming with persons whose eyes were nailed on the Jersey skyline. Taxis and automobiles cruised along the driveway or nosed alongside the curbing. People stood up in them with the evident idea of peeping over the edge of the earth. Questions, technical and lay, bristled in the air and every star that popped out with the waning twilight was a possibility. More false alarms were raised than no the night before, because there were more persons on hand.

"If the tail is really 100 degrees long, as those who observed it last night say," Prof. Jacoby declared, "we ought to see it away up in the sky to the west even some time after the sun has set." This was at or about 7:30, more than a quarter of an hour after sunset. Time went on and the glow began to die out across the river. Not a wisp of unusual light appeared. The astronomer kept up the vigil until it was too dark to see anything but the light on the corner and then he decided to call off the wack.

"The most reasonable explanation of the way the comet has acted," said he, "seems to be that the tail has curved, more than we anticipated. In that event it might easily miss the earth entirely. Perhaps we have already passed through the tail, perhaps we shall go through it to-night or perhaps the experience has been denied us altogether. A curve that would be enough to warp the tail so that the distance from head to tip would be less than 14,000,000 miles would put us out of the tail's reach. Or possibly it curved around one side or the other of the earth or above or below us. We can only wait until some other appearance occurs to make certain."

"Do you think the tail has been dropped?" he was asked.

"It's quite conceivable," was the answer. "We have records of many telescopic comets losing their tails and perhaps this one has. But I think we shall pick it up over there in the west, pointing away from the sun, as we have supposed."

Those who had been hearing most of the basic forecasts denied from all parts of the world were beginning to get sceptical last evening and Prof. Jacoby was asked whether the despatches from Manila and Honolulu reporting unsuccessful observations meant that the head of the comet hadn't crossed the sun's face yet.

"Oh, that shouldn't be regarded as a failure at all," he replied. "We have never had a chance to verify our ideas of the lack of density in comets, but this seems to show that the sun had no difficulty in blinding the astronomers. Even this negative result is valuable."

For the purpose of supplying a little encouragement to those who have looked and looked and gone unrewarded this sky expert declared that when it finally appears after sunset the comet will be a wonder.

"Three factors will make up the conditions governing the best view," said he. "One is the intrinsic brightness of the comet itself, another is the absence of twilight in the sky and the third is the absence of moonlight. The comet's brightness is diminishing right now, but as it falls away from us, but the other two factors will become more favorable. The comet will set later each evening and the moonlight will diminish after the full moon. It follows that as the factors are acting in opposite directions we cannot forecast when the sun of their effects will be most favorable. But I think it will be a week from Saturday night."

There is a total eclipse of the moon next Monday night. At New York the moon enters shadow at 10:50 o'clock, the total eclipse begins at 12:14 and lasts until 1:03 and the shadow passes away at 2:26 Tuesday morning. According to Prof. Jacoby this will be of little help to the comet seers, because Halley's wonder will have set long before the moon goes out of sight.

One thing that must be taken into consideration in all this sky gazing under tension, says the astronomer, is that when a man wants to see something very badly the chances are he will come pretty close to seeing it. They believe that this may have had a great deal to do with the way that reports have been pouring in about meteorites, auroral lights and rays in general. A companying many of these declarations came assurances that they really had nothing to do with the comet and that things like that could happen most any time.

Comet Mad.

HACKENSACK, N. J., May 19.—Miss Kate Vanness, 9 years old, of Carlton Hill, was taken to the Morris Plains insane asylum to-day, a victim of nervous collapse following the comet excitement. All the way to Morris Plains she kept saying she would follow the comet no matter where it went.

33 DEAD IN CUBAN EXPLOSION.

Number of Wounded at the Pinar del Rio Accident is 140.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. HAVANA, May 19.—The latest reports of the explosion at Pinar del Rio say that thirty-three persons were killed and 140 injured. The clearing away of the wreckage of the barracks and other buildings continues. It is believed there are more bodies in the ruins. Charles Wells, an American engineer, is among the missing. The dead include Señor Soler, chief engineer of the province, Engineer Lagre, and Capt. Ravana, who commanded the post, with his whole family, numbering five persons.

Capt. Ravana was found buried in the ruins, clasping in his arms his baby girl. Human fragments were thrown broadcast over a wide area. An arm was found at a distance of half a mile, and a young girl's head was found half a mile away.

It is reported officially that the explosion was caused by a carpenter who was renailing a box of dynamite which had broken open. A gang of men was engaged in loading dynamite on wagons for shipment to Havana when the explosion occurred.

In consequence of the accident President Gomez has postponed a ball scheduled to be held at the palace Saturday night to commemorate the foundation of the republic.

DEVIL'S ISLAND PRISONER.

Escaped Convict Rogues Resentenced—The Magistrate Expresses Sympathy.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. PARIS, May 19.—Roger Rogues, alias Adrida Marian, the prisoner who escaped from Devil's Island five years ago and who was arrested on his arrival in Liverpool on the steamship Mauretania from New York on April 14 and extradited to France, was to-day sent to Ile d'Yeu, there to await transportation to Lagunay.

When arraigned in London the prisoner made a moving appeal to the Magistrate. He told how when he was 19 years old he was sentenced to Devil's Island for life for murder. He managed to make his escape after five years, married and led a good life. He pleaded against extradition, saying he was on the way to Central America when arrested.

The Magistrate expressed sympathy with the prisoner and said the French authorities would undoubtedly take the extenuating circumstances into consideration. Inasmuch, however, as the prisoner admitted that he was the person described by the French authorities the Magistrate was compelled to grant the request for extradition.

GEN. BRUN TAKES A FLIGHT.

The French Minister of War Up in the Air for Half an Hour.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. PARIS, May 19.—Gen. Brin, Minister of War, made an aerial flight to-day in a Farman biplane at Chalons. He was piloted by an army lieutenant. He was in the air for half an hour.

The military aviation corps has received the first of a series of Wright machines. The delivery was made at Vincennes by Count Lambert, who found it easier to fly in the machine from Paris than to use the railroad.

MME. DE ST. GILLES TO JAIL.

American Born Woman Sentenced for Shoplifting in Bourges.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. PARIS, May 19.—The police tribunal at Bourges has sentenced Mme. Christiane de Saint Gilles, who was born at Washington, D. C., to four months imprisonment for shoplifting. The woman claimed her infant child in her arms as she escaped. As she heard her fate she fell and was attacked by a severe hemorrhage.

It is said the woman was starving when she committed the theft.

DE CRESPIGNY'S SUICIDE.

Coroner's Jury Decides That It Was Due to Temporary Insanity.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. LONDON, May 19.—A coroner's jury has returned a verdict that Capt. Claude Champion de Crespigny, the well known polo player, who was found dead yesterday at Kings Cliffe, committed suicide while temporarily insane. A doctor attributed his condition to influenza, wounds received in South Africa and severe falls while steeplechasing and playing polo.

TROTTER BARNEY IS DEAD.

Winona's Famous Horse Paces Away in England at the Age of 23.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. LONDON, May 19.—Mr. Winona's famous trotter Barney is dead. Although he was 23 years old he was being prepared to compete again at the horse show, where he was tumultuously applauded last year. Mr. Winona says sorrowfully that Barney never did a wrong thing and never refused to do his best.

PERU-EQUADOR DISPUTE.

Alfonso's Award Being Delayed for the Countries to Come to Terms.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. LIMA, Peru, May 19.—It is said on trustworthy authority that the Spanish Minister has received a cable despatch saying that the award of King Alfonso to the Peruvian-Ecuadorian dispute is being delayed to allow time for a direct arrangement to be reached between the two countries.

Seismic Shocks in France.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. MARSEILLES, May 19.—Severe seismic shocks have been felt at Salon and Lambesc, Department of Bouches du Rhone. The inhabitants are seen clumping outdoors. The shocks were accompanied by a rumbling similar to that which followed the severe earthquake in that region in June last year.

TAIL SEEN AT MADRID.

Prof. Michie Smith Unable to See the Comet Crossing the Sun.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. LONDON, May 19.—Prof. Michie Smith of the observatory at Madrid telegraphs that photographs and visual observations there showed no certain trace of Halley's comet during its transit of the sun's disc. The day was cloudy, but the definition was splendid.

The tail was seen easily this morning.

Police Justice Morrell and Mrs. Morrell Hurt in Auto Collision.

MICKOLA, L. I., May 19.—Henry C. Morrell, a police justice of Great Neck, and his wife Mrs. Kate I. Morrell, were severely injured today in a collision between a trolley car of the New York and Long Island Traction Company and an automobile in which they were driving. Both are in the Nassau Hospital. Mrs. Morrell is 60 years old, and her husband is about a year her senior. Mrs. Morrell is suffering from a fracture of the left hip, concussion of the brain and contusions. Mr. Morrell has concussion of the brain.

BREAK BLUEFIELDS BLOCKADE.

U. S. S. PADUCAH ORDERS THE VENUS AWAY.

Ship Has Forfeited Rights to Establish a Blockade, State Department Says—An Estrada Ship, Ustien, Leaves New Orleans to Battle With Venus.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. BLUEFIELDS, May 19.—The American gunboat Paducah drove the Madriz gunboat Venus away from Bluefields this morning. Just how near there came to being a clash officers on the Paducah won't say. It is believed that Gens. Arias and Alshult intend to resist.

Commander Gilbert of the Paducah said that the Venus must not molest vessels trying to enter the port of Bluefields. The Venus had set up a blockade. Madriz officers declare that they are going to appeal to the Powers.

WASHINGTON, May 19.—A force of 100 sailors has been landed at Bluefields by Commander Gilmer of the United States gunboat Paducah to protect the lives and property of Americans and other foreigners. Commander Gilmer has advised the Navy Department that the Estrada and Madriz forces are within three miles of each other and that a battle is expected momentarily.

The steamer Venus, which has been at Bluefields for several days, has been ordered away from the port by Commander Gilmer and will not be allowed to return. The Venus was fitted out by Madriz adherents at New Orleans recently. Before she left the Estrada representative there protested to the Department of Justice that she was violating the neutrality laws. The District Attorney made an investigation and reported that there was no warrant for detaining her. After her departure she became a full fledged war vessel, however, and entered Bluefields. Señor Irias, her commander, served notice that he intended to bombard the town if the insurgents did not surrender. Commander Gilmer declined to allow the bombardment.

The Venus also declared a blockade and took a bag of mail from the steamship Dictator, which attempted to enter Bluefields. Commander Gilmer compelled Señor Irias to give up the mail. As a result the Venus was ordered away from Bluefields and will not be allowed to return.

The State Department to-night issued this official statement explaining the policy of the Government toward the steamship Venus:

"The United States policy as to the blockade at Bluefields, whose announcement by the Madriz faction would seem to constitute a recognition on their part of the belligerency of the Estrada faction, will naturally be the same as that laid down in regard to the blockade at Greytown by the Estrada faction. The Secretary of State then held that if the announced blockade or investment was effectively maintained and the requirements of international law, including warning to approaching vessels, were observed, the United States Government would not be disposed to interfere to prevent its enforcement, but reserved all rights in respect to the validity of any proceedings against vessels as prizes of war."

"In the present instance, however, it should be observed that a vessel which by deceiving the authorities at a port of the United States sailed therefrom in the guise of a merchantman, but had in reality been destined for use as a war vessel, by such act has forfeited full belligerent rights such as the right of search on the high seas and of blockade."

Landing parties numbering 100 men from the American warships Paducah and Dubuque came ashore here this morning to protect the lives and property of Americans and to maintain order. The men were in heavy marching order and fully armed. They brought with them several quick firing guns. Fighting between the Madrizites and Estradists will not be permitted at Bluefields.

NEW ORLEANS, May 19.—Just after despatches reached here to-day saying that the Venus had been ordered to leave the vicinity of Bluefields, the steamship Ustien, left port bound for Bluefields. Aboard the ship were Richard Sussman, Consul General for the provisional Nicaraguan Government, and Brig. Gen. Gab. Conrad, the Louisiana man, who has done service for the revolutionists. In the hold of the ship, neatly packed away, was said to be a heavy armament entirely sufficient for any emergency.

Although neither of the agents of the Estrada Government would confirm it, the report was current that the Ustien would seek out the Venus and would engage her in battle.

The despatch, which said that the Venus had been warned away from Bluefields, also said that the Venus would attempt to land the reinforcements she carried for the army of Madriz. The latter, it was said, would probably make an effort to hinder vessels from relieving the troops of Estrada.

If these reports are correct the Venus and the Ustien are very likely to meet in front of Bluefields as the Madriz craft can easily land her men and get back into position before the Ustien arrives.

Gen. Conrad, who is known as the hero of Recreo and of the courage he displayed at that engagement, when almost single handed he rallied the forces of Estrada around him for victory, and Consul Sussman stood on the wharf to-day before the head left Lag. Gen. Conrad, the Louisiana man, who has done service for the revolutionists. In the hold of the ship, neatly packed away, was said to be a heavy armament entirely sufficient for any emergency.

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